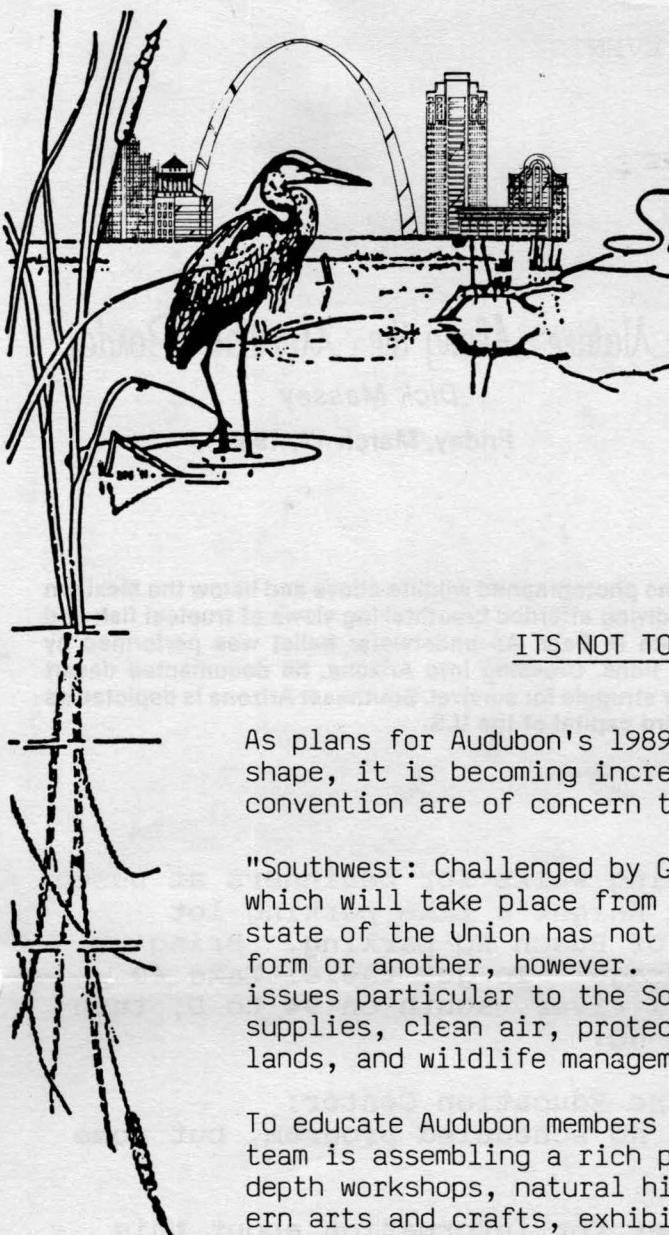


Jan 89
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Saint Louis Audubon Society

ITS NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR FALL

As plans for Audubon's 1989 National Convention in Tucson, Arizona, take shape, it is becoming increasingly clear that the issues central to the convention are of concern to Auduboners everywhere.

"Southwest: Challenged by Growth" is the official theme of the convention which will take place from September 12-16, 1989. Hardly a chapter in any state of the Union has not been faced with the problem of growth in one form or another, however. And, the convention organizers point out, the issues particular to the Southwest are also nationwide challenges: water supplies, clean air, protecting and maintaining natural ecosystems, public lands, and wildlife management, to name a few.

To educate Audubon members on these issues, an expert convention planning team is assembling a rich program that will include general sessions, in-depth workshops, natural history trips, and informal events. Southwestern arts and crafts, exhibits, and displays will also be featured. And special sessions will be devoted to Audubon's national high-priority campaigns--the Clean Air Act, Platte River, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Wetlands, and Ancient Forests.

For further information, contact the Convention Office, National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, Colo. 80803. As we receive updates we will pass them along to you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Nature Along the Mexican Border

Dick Massey

Friday, March 17, 1989

Dick Massey has photographed wildlife above and below the Mexican border. Scuba diving afforded breathtaking views of tropical fish and other marine life in Baja. An underwater ballet was performed by dozens of sea lions. Crossing into Arizona, he documented desert animals in their struggle for survival. Southeast Arizona is depicted as the hummingbird capital of the U.S.

- JANUARY 7 8:00 a.m. Saturday birding walks for beginners at Busch Wildlife Area. Meet at Knight's Lake parking lot approx. 0.2 miles west of Busch HQ parking. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage. To get there: Take 40 west across the Missouri river, south on 94 to D, turn right for 1 mile to the HQ.
- JAN. 8 Monthly Open House at the Education Center:
SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. No scheduled program, but come out and enjoy the day.
- JAN. 21 GULL DAYS Call Paul Bauer for information about this
SATURDAY event. 931-3972
- JAN 27 FILM ADVENTURE SERIES. Autumn Odyssey by Thomas
FRIDAY Sterling. Webster Groves Christian Church, 8:00 p.m.
- FEB. 4 8:00 a.m. Saturday birding walks for beginners. See
SATURDAY January 7 for more details.
- Feb. 11 Monthly Open House at the Education Center.
SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. No scheduled program this month.
- HOWEVER!.... HERE IS ANOTHER GULL DAY. CALL PAUL BAUER
FOR MORE INFORMATION 921-3972
- MARCH 4 8:00 a.m. Saturday birding walks for beginners. At
SATURDAY Busch Wildlife Area. See January 7 for details.
- MARCH 12 Education Center monthly Open House. 10:00 a.m.- 3 p.m.
SUNDAY Program begins at 1:30 p.m. Bill Summers: "Edible
Spring Greens" an illustrated 35 mm slide show plus a walk around the grounds to identify the actual plants.

MAR 17 **FILM ADVENTURE SERIES.** By Dick Massey.
FRIDAY Nature Along the Mexican Border. Webster Groves
 Christian Church. 8:00 p.m.

MARCH 18 **WATERFOWL WATCH** A spring migration time. Held at
SATURDAY Raccoon Ranch. 8:00 a.m. Leaders: Cis and Charlie
 Hager (ph. 938-5586). To get there enter St. Charles
 by way of the old bridge via the St. Charles Rock Rd.
 Turn right off the bridge onto 94. Follow 94 out of
 town and travel approx. 12 miles to Reese Rd. Turn
 left and go straight to the ranch. Bring your
 binoculars, lunch and dress for the weather.

APRIL 1 8:00 a.m. Saturday birding walks at Busch Wildlife
SATURDAY Area. For details see January 7.

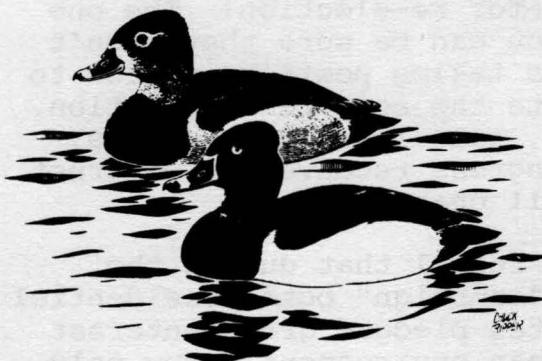
APRIL 7 **FILM ADVENTURE SERIES.** Yellowstone by Dale
FRIDAY Johnson. Webster Groves Christian Church. 8:00 p.m.

APRIL 9 Monthly Education Center Open House. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
SUNDAY Program at 1:30 p.m. Donna Ford ... recently returned
 from her Missouri Botanical Garden study in Chile,
 presents Chile.. Land of the Calandrinia". Come and
 learn what a calandrinia really is. See it pictured on
 35 mm slides before your very eyes.

APRIL 24 **ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET DATE** Mark your calendars
MONDAY and save that day for another exciting evening. To
 be held at the Viking located at Lindbergh and Watson
 Rd. Program to be announced soon.

**PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION HAS
A NEW MEETING PLACE**

It is at the Oakbranch Library off
of Big Bend and Hiway 44. Meetings
will be held the first Monday of
the month beginning in 1989, except
January and April. No meeting in
January.



ACID RAIN UPDATE

by Blaine Ulmer

How many of you are familiar with the language of acid rain? At the risk of boring you I'll take a moment for those of you who are not familiar with the terminology. The term to know is "pH". It is the relative measure of acidity and alkalinity. The pH scale is from 0 to 14. The pH of pure distilled water, considered neutral, is 7. Normal rain is slightly acidic and has a pH of about 5.6. Readings below 7 are acidic, while readings above 7 are basic (or alkaline).

It should be understood that the scale is logarithmic. That means there is a ten fold difference in concentration between one whole number and the next. For example, rain with a pH of 4.6 is 10 times as acidic as a normal rain of 5.6. a pH of 3.6 is 100 times as acidic as normal rain. Those of you who enjoy a cola drink should be advised that it has a pH of about 4.....so much for the jargon.

Congress is resting, regrouping, recovering or whatever it is they do between sessions. Perhaps this could be called the "calm before the storm". Some are already running for re-election! The one thing you can be sure they aren't doing is taking positive action to alleviate the acid rain situation. However, come late January 1989, when Congress reconvenes, we trust that will change.

You may recall that during the recent "campaign" both presidential candidates pledged great interest in a clean environment. Now only one of them is to be held accountable: at least on the federal level. It must be realized that the President alone cannot legislate clean air. There must be Congressional activity. Since there was no action taken on acid rain legislation in the Congress adjourned, some will assume that

the fault is at the door step of the White House. It should be noted that both the House (HR 2666) and the Senate (S 1894) had legislation pending that was delayed, first by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), and, finally by Robert Byrd (D-WVA) for reasons of their own. In other words this is not really a partisan political issue, I have contacted Senators Danforth and Bond, as well as Rep. Buechner, and was assured they are much interested in achieving clean air.

What is National Audubon doing about clean air and/or acid rain? For one, they have a staff of scientists studying the cause and effect of acid rain the the environment. For another, they have a staff who endeavor to make members of Congress aware of our concerns and to take appropriate action.

Last year Audubon formed a Citizen's Acid Rain Monitoring Network consisting of approximately 250 monitors, of which I am one, in 49 states. We try to get several samples of rain each month, measure the pH, and "hot-line" the data to National Audubon without delay. The scientific protocol for this network was developed and reviewed by acid rain experts at Princeton University. The federal government also monitor pH regionally in their National Atmospheric Deposition Program and historically thier data compare favorably with ours. Since their samples receive a complete chemical analysis it takes them much longer to release the results. I have been in contact with the Post Dispatch and believe that in the near future they will be reporting the pH on some sort of regular basis. This should make the citizens of this area more aware of the situation.

Is this just an exercise to keep retired engineers, school teachers and the like out the the house and out in the rain? I would like to think it is more than that. I have collected more than twelve rain samples since the latter part of

July. The average pH was 4.9. It is believed that any reading below 5.0 is probably caused by man-made pollutants in the air. Generally speaking, the states east and northeast of us have pH reading several points lower than ours.

So what? The Congressional Research Service reviewed a dozen major studies that examined the economic benefits of controlling acid rain and pollution. The highlights are:

Estimated damage to structures, buildings, and historical monuments range from \$15 - \$60 billion.

Crop damage from acid rain is so severe that a 50% reduction in acid rain pollutants could increase the soybean crop by \$140 million.

Economic losses from degradation of forests, lakes, and streams in the eastern U.S. as a result of acid rain deposition are placed at \$1.75 billion for forests and \$250 million for aquatic resources.

In 1985 the American Lung Assoc. reported that a 60% reduction in average 1978 particulate and sulphur dioxide emissions in the U.S. would save between \$5.1 and \$15.9 billion in annual health costs, not to mention actual lives saved.

Perhaps one of the most dramatic benefits of the formation of the Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network is that Audubon has gone to Congress and shown them data obtained by some 250 people across the country representing several thousand Audubon members indicating that as many as 36 states have acid rain conditions. The old squeaking wheel gets attention.

So, if you think acid rain is a problem and we need clean air--start squeaking!!!

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN RECEIVES GRANT TO TRAIN TEACHERS

The education division of the Missouri Botanical Garden has received a National Science Foundation grant of \$128,133 to help train St. Louis area teachers in ecology and environmental science.

The title of the project is "**A SHORT COURSE IN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS: GRADE 4-8**". It will provide 50 hours of environmental science instruction annually for a total of 90 teachers over the three year period. Course instructors will be experienced and skilled educators, scientists, Garden staff, community experts, and master teachers. The training will take place at the Garden and Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit, MO.

The course will provide participants with practical ideas and materials for their classrooms, training in teaching ecology and environmental science, and continued access to community resources that support teaching. Teachers will develop their own project to be used and evaluated in their own classrooms. Participants will receive stipends and earn three graduate credits towards science certification.

Thirty participants will be selected annually for the project from public and private city and county schools. Interested teachers may apply after February 1, 1989 and must be currently teaching in grades 4-8 and have an interest in developing classroom materials in ecology and environmental sciences.

For more information, call
577-5140.

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Lee Mason - Photography 427-6311

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee will meet on Feb. 15th at 7:30 PM at the home of Gary Giessow. They will need resumes of applicants before that date. For information or questions concerning this activity call Gary at 994-7570, or Mary Lou Miller, Home 389-3969, or Business 553-1429

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Becker of Edwardsville, IL for contributing books to Educational Center. Barbara Cordes for working Christmas eve to get the Bulletin out. Marilyn Martin and Laverne Koyn for keeping the bird feeders full at the Educational Center. Jerry Miller, Jim Ernst, Bill Salsgiver, Virginia Conger and her husband for working to get the cottage ready for renting.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Jordon Mack Dickmann
Mr. and Mrs. John Dreckshage

In memory of Jean Barrington
by
Kathy Armfield
Mr. and Mrs. David Warning
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Schmittgens
Joyce A. White
Mr. and Mrs. Erich Thurmann

T-SHIRT DESIGNS BEING SOUGHT

The St. Louis Chapter of the Audubon Society is planning to offer T- shirts for sale at the many functions it participates in. They are looking for something that represents the chapter and enhances its uniqueness to St. Louis. If you would like to be a part of this process; offer suggestions or artwork, feel free to contact the chapter through the phone lines. The number is 938-6123.

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

The host committee now has 14 members with the recent addition of Joe and Elsie Sedlock along with Don and Suzanne Percival.

DICK ANDERSON

We know that Dick's many Audubon friends will want to know that he was very seriously injured in an automobile accident on Dec. 29th. He is a long time member of St. Louis Audubon and worked with Paul Bauer to prepare the "Complete List of St. Louis Area Birds" we have all used for many years. He is now in intensive care at Barnes Hospital, but any messages of affection and concern sent to his home at 1147 Grenshaw, St. Louis, Mo. 63137 will be much appreciated by Dick and family.